

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 23, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following remarks and have canceled claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 20-28 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 22 and 25-26 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 20-21, 23-24 and 27-28 are now pending in this Application. Claims 20, 23, 24 and 27 are independent claims.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants wish to point out that claims 1-19 were canceled via instructions in Applicants' Divisional Patent Application Transmittal letter. As a result, prior to this Amendment, claims 20-28 were pending with claims 20 and 24 being independent. This fact is further evidenced by the Official Filing Receipt, a copy of which is enclosed, which properly indicates that this Divisional Application initially included 9 claims in total, with 2 independent claims. Since claims 1-19 have been canceled, the Double Patenting rejections of claims 1-19 should be withdrawn.

Applicants wish to further point out that Applicants' Divisional Patent Application Transmittal letter included instructions to add a cross-referencing paragraph to page 1 of the Specification. In this Amendment, Applicants have revised this cross-referencing paragraph to reference a Parent Application directly by its U.S. Patent Number. No new matter has been added.

Allowed Claims

Claims 22-23 and 26-28 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 20-21

Rather than rewrite claim 22 to include all of the limitations of independent claim 20 from which claim 22 depends, Applicants have rewritten claim 20 to include all of the limitations of claim 22, and then canceled claim 22.

Accordingly, claim 20 is now in allowable condition.

Because claim 21 depends from and further limits claim 20, claim 21 is in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Claim 23

Applicants have rewritten claim 23 to include all of the limitations of claim 20, as originally filed. Accordingly, claim 23 is now in allowable condition.

Claim 24

Rather than rewrite claim 26 to include all of the limitations of claims 24 and 25 from which claim 26 depends, Applicants have rewritten claim 24 to include all of the limitations of claims 25 and 26, and then canceled claims 25 and 26. Accordingly, claim 24 is now in allowable condition.

Claims 27-28

Applicants have rewritten claim 27 to include all of the limitations of claim 24, as originally filed. Accordingly, claim 27 is now in allowable condition.

Because claim 28 depends from and further limits claim 27, claim 28 is in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

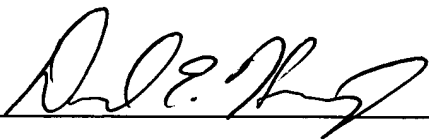
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this Application. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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